


Hospital Advisory Group Meeting

February 19, 1999, 1:00 p. m.

Meeting Summary


NOTE: next meeting - Thursday, May 6, 1999 1:30 p. m. - IDEM Shadeland Office

- Dave Wintz announced some personnel changes at IDEM - he is now the coordinator of the Hospital Advisory Group. John Lovelace has moved to Georgia. Also, Tom Neltner, Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance's Assistant Commissioner, is leaving the agency. Dave's phone number is (800) 988-7901 ext. 3-1194 or (317) 233-1194; his e-mail address is dwintz@dem.state.in.us.
- Roger Wilson, an inspector from IDEM's Office of Solid and Hazardous Waste Management spoke about the hazardous waste rules, generator status and other waste management issues. We handed out the USEPA guidebook "Understanding the Hazardous Waste Rules" to those who wanted one. Roger stressed the importance of weighing your hazardous waste and documenting the generation of said waste. Roger reported that of 63 notifiers to IDEM, one is LQG, 24 are SQGs, 28 are CESQGs and 10 are non-handlers of hazardous waste. IDEM has conducted hazardous waste inspections at hospitals in the past.
- Ron Wukasz, from the Purdue University Technical Assistance Program (TAP) spoke about the new MACT standard for medical waste incinerators. Ron went through the basics of incineration including time, temperature and turbulence. Ron also discussed wet scrubbers, dry scrubbers and other pollution control equipment. There does not appear to be off-the-shelf technology for hospital incinerators that must retrofit to meet the MACT standard. Most in attendance agreed with this assessment. The costs of retrofitting an incinerator are estimated at \$250,000-\$500,000. Operating costs could be \$200,000-\$300,000 per year. There are other costs such as staff training, permitting and supplemental fuels. We discussed consultants that were currently doing assessments of hospital incinerators. There are a couple consultants that are doing work for hospitals. A useful web site for information on the rule and other items can be found at  <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/uatw/129/hmiwi/rihmiwi.html>
- Next was a presentation on solid waste management/recycling by Philip O'Connor from the West Central Solid Waste District. Phil discussed the work he is doing in his five-county solid waste district. There are many recycling opportunities in hospitals - one of the main things to consider is education and training of employees to segregate waste properly. There are also a lot of opportunities for source reduction and re-use in a hospital. Most districts now have a business recycling staff person to assist you with getting your program off the ground. Call

Dave Wintz if you need your solid waste management district's phone number.

- Susan Bem from IDEM's Office of Air Management presented information on the Medical Waste Incinerator rule. The effective date of the rule is 3/11/99 - it was signed on 2/9/99. Enclosed is a new schedule of milestones for this rule. **NOTE: The first increment of progress is June 30, 1999 - sources planning to retrofit incinerators to meet the MACT standard must submit final control plan to IDEM by June 30, 1999!** Susan reminded everyone that you do not have to notify the state if you are closing your incinerator. Incinerators that are closing must be closed by 3/11/00.

If you have an incinerator and you have not responded to the survey that Susan sent to hospitals, please do so as soon as possible. If you did not get a survey, please call Susan at (317) 233-5697.

We discussed permitting issues, especially the City of Indianapolis permitting program. If you have permitting questions, you can call Dave Wintz at IDEM for confidential assistance at (317) 233-1194. There is an Internet chat room available at  <http://www.nmwrc.com>. It is not a 24-hour chat session - you have to keep an eye on the site to see when the next chat session will be held.

- Wanda Stanfield, IDEM Air Compliance, talked about her outreach to hospitals. Wanda will be doing site visits to hospitals to discuss incinerator issues. Wanda will be working on the Model Medical Waste Management Plan workgroup with other members of the Hospital Advisory Group and IDEM.
- We then had open discussion about various issues. We touched on vinyl recycling, meeting location, other options for medical waste such as autoclaving, irradiation, etc. and other items of interest to the group.
- Enclosed are some articles that might be of interest to you. If you have articles that you think would be of interest to the group, please send them to me and I'll put them in the next packets. My mailing address is Dave Wintz, IDEM-OPPTA, PO Box 6015, Indianapolis, IN 46206-6015.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 6, 1999, 1:30 p. m. Indianapolis time at IDEM's Shadeland Office at 2525 North Shadeland Avenue. We'll see how people like this location, compared to downtown. There is free parking in front of the building. We will be in conference room D on the second floor. I will fax out a reminder and directions to everyone.